

Claims

1. A backlit display, comprising:  
at least one light source;  
a backlit component;  
a light-transmitting substrate having at least one fluorescing material incorporated into said substrate, wherein the light-transmitting substrate is intermediately located between the light source and the backlit component such that the backlit component passes light through at least one selected portion of said substrate.
2. A backlit display according to claim 1, further comprising a diffusing material incorporated into said substrate for diffusing light passing through said substrate.
3. A backlit display according to claim 2, wherein said diffusing substance at least one selected from the group consisting of a silica-based material, a PTFE material, an inorganic filler, and an acrylic-based material.
4. A backlit display according to claim 1, further comprising a light-passing coating layer disposed between said substrate and said opaque layer.
5. A backlit display according to claim 1, wherein the light-passing coating layer is colored to reflect a daytime graphics color.
6. A backlit display according to claim 1, wherein said substrate is formed from a polymer.
7. A backlit display according to claim 1, wherein said fluorescing material is chosen based on a light spectrum of a light source and a desired light spectrum for said graphic.

8. A backlit display according to claim 1, wherein said light source is an light emitting diode (LED).

9. A backlit display according to claim 8, wherein said light source is a blue LED.

10. A backlit display according to claim 1, wherein the backlit component is a button and the passing of light through at least one selected portion of said substrate is facilitated by a graphics area formed about a surface of the button.

11. A backlit display according to claim 10, wherein the backlit display further comprises a lightpipe intermediately positioned in the button that is located between the substrate and the light source.

12. A backlit display according to claim 11, wherein the button is positioned over a discrete silicon rubber switch dome and a circuit board.

13. A backlit display according to claim 10, wherein the button includes a cavity defined by side walls that reflects light toward the selected portion of the substrate.

14. A backlit display according to claim 13, wherein the side walls include a reflective, opaque material.

15. A backlit display according to claim 1, wherein the backlit component is a trim plate positioned over a circuit board and the passing of light through at least one selected portion of said substrate is facilitated by a graphics area formed about a surface of the trim plate.

16. A backlit display according to claim 15, wherein the passing of light through at least one selected portion of said substrate is further facilitated by a rotary knob positioned about the trim plate, wherein the knob includes an integral lightpipe having a visible light-transmitting surface.

17. A backlit display according to claim 15, wherein the substrate is spaced from the circuit board by a distance such that the substrate is positioned about a common plane extending from a base portion of the knob.

18. A backlit display according to claim 1, wherein the backlit component is a liquid crystal display and the passing of light through at least one selected portion of said substrate is facilitated by a graphics area formed about a surface of the liquid crystal display.

19. A backlit display according to claim 18, wherein the backlit component further comprises a reflective housing including a beveled area that receives the substrate.

20. A backlit display according to claim 19, wherein the housing includes a reflective, opaque material.

21. A backlit display according to claim 1, wherein the substrate includes a contour.

22. A backlit display according to claim 21, wherein the substrate includes a contour having a constant thickness.

23. A backlit display according to claim 21, wherein the substrate includes a contour having a varying thickness.

24. A backlit display according to claim 21, wherein the contour is flat.

25. A backlit display according to claim 21, wherein the contour is hemispherical.

26. A backlit display according to claim 21, wherein the contour is box-shaped.

27. A backlit display according to claim 21, wherein the contour is cylindrical.